AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A data processing apparatus for reading, from a recording medium, [[a]] content ~~which is~~ stored in a specified recording area of the recording medium and playing back ~~the~~ read content, the recording medium storing, according to a specified format, content ~~contents~~ and management information for ~~of~~ the ~~contents~~ content, the data processing apparatus comprising:

a content processor that reads the management information from the recording medium, and that reads the content according to the management information from the recording medium to process the read content;

a searcher that, when the content processor reads the [[a]] content, searches[[,]] for the content[[,]] out of a specified search range, the specified search range being ~~which is~~ defined according to the specified format as a range for storing ~~contents~~ content to be reproduced, when [[if]] the content ~~to be read~~ is managed by the management information and ~~but~~ not present in the specified recording area;

a link information setter; and

a management information storage that stores the management information ~~which is~~ read from the recording medium[[,]] using an identification number specific to the recording medium, ~~so that~~ to enable management of the management information ~~can be managed~~,

wherein, when the content is found by the searcher, the link information setter updates ~~the~~ link information for relating a ~~the~~ recording area at which ~~of~~ the ~~found~~ content was found to

the specified recording area so that ~~as to enable access to~~ the content is accessible using ~~with~~ the management information.

2. (Currently Amended) The data processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the management information includes play list information for specifying a playback sequence for playback of the ~~contents~~ content[[,]] and track information, the track information including meta information relating to the ~~contents~~ content.

3. (Currently Amended) The data processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the specified search range includes ~~is~~ a recording area in the recording medium.

4. (Currently Amended) The data processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the specified search range includes a recording area ~~of~~ in the ~~a~~ recording medium, the recording medium being ~~which is~~ incorporated in the data processing apparatus.

5. (Currently Amended) The data processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the specified search range includes a recording area of a device ~~which is~~ connected to the data processing apparatus, the device being connected to the data processing apparatus either directly or via ~~through~~ a network.

6. (Original) The data processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the recording medium is a detachable recording medium.

7. (Currently Amended) The data processing apparatus of claim 6, further comprising: a data storage that stores content ~~contents~~ conforming ~~which conform~~ to a specified standard format,

wherein the content processor reads the content from the recording medium or the data storage according to the management information to process the read content, and

wherein, when the content processor reads the [[a]] content, the searcher searches the recording medium or the data storage for the content, when ~~if~~ the content to be read is managed by the management information and ~~but~~ not present in the specified recording area.

8. (Currently Amended) The data processing apparatus of claim 7, wherein the content is stored according to a ~~by~~ priority in the recording medium, and when a ~~after~~ free area of the recording medium falls below ~~becomes less than~~ a predetermined value, the content is stored in the data storage[[,]] and the management information, for managing the content stored in the recording medium and the data storage, is stored in the recording medium.

9. (Currently Amended) The data processing apparatus of claim 6,

wherein the content processor reads the content based on ~~with reference to~~ the management information stored in the management information storage, and

wherein the link information setter stores ~~sets~~ the link information on the management information storage.

10. (Currently Amended) The data processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein when the identification number specific to the recording medium ~~which is~~ stored in the management information storage differs ~~is different~~ from an identification number specific to a recording

medium to be loaded into the data processing apparatus, the searcher and ~~the~~ link information setter set the link information.

11. (Currently Amended)   The data processing apparatus of claim 10, wherein the recording medium includes ~~has a~~ copyright protection functionality ~~function~~.

12. (Currently Amended)   The data processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the management information manages a content identifier (ID) that ~~ID which~~ is identification information uniquely assigned to each of a plurality of contents ~~content~~, and

wherein the searcher searches for [[a]] content to be played back using the content ID.

13. (Currently Amended) A data processing method for reading, from a recording medium, [[a]] content ~~which is~~ stored in a specified recording area of the recording medium and for playing back ~~the~~ read content, the recording medium storing, according to a specified format, ~~contents~~ content and management information for ~~of~~ the ~~contents~~ content, the data processing method comprising:

reading management information from the recording medium, and determining the content to be played back according to ~~with reference to~~ the read management information;

judging whether ~~if~~ the determined content exists in a specified recording area in the recording medium;

searching, ~~out of~~ a specified search range, ~~which is~~ defined according to the specified format as a range for storing ~~contents~~ content to be reproduced, for the content, when ~~if~~ the determined content is not present ~~does not exist~~ in the specified recording area;

updating link information for relating a the recording area of at which the found content was found to the specified recording area so that the content is accessible using can be accessed with the management information, when the determined content is found; and

storing the management information which is read from the recording medium, using an identification number specific to the recording medium, so that to enable management of the management information can be managed.

14. (Currently Amended) The data processing method of claim 13, wherein the management information includes play list information for specifying a playback sequence for playback of the contents content[[,]] and track information, the track information including meta information relating to the contents content.

15. (Currently Amended) The data processing method of claim 13, wherein the specified search range includes is a recording area in the recording medium.

16. (Currently Amended) The data processing method of claim 13, wherein the specified search range includes a recording area in the a of a recording medium, the recording medium being which is incorporated in the data processing apparatus.

17. (Currently Amended) The data processing method of claim 13, wherein the specified search range includes the recording area of a device which is connected to the data processing apparatus, the device being connected to the data processing apparatus either directly or via through a network.

18. (Original) The data processing apparatus of claim 13, wherein the recording medium is a detachable recording medium.

19. (Currently Amended) The data processing method of claim 18, <u>further comprising:</u>

~~wherein~~ when the content is stored according to <u>the</u> ~~a~~ specified format in the recording medium <u>and a</u> ~~anda~~ data storage in the data processing apparatus, ~~further comprising:~~ searching the recording medium or the data storage for the determined content, <u>when</u> ~~if~~ the determined content is managed by the management information <u>and</u> ~~but~~ not present in the specified recording area.

20. (Currently Amended) The data processing method of claim 19, further comprising:

storing the content <u>according to a</u> ~~by~~ priority in the recording medium;

storing the content in the data storage <u>when a</u> ~~after~~ free area of the recording medium <u>falls below</u> ~~becomes less than~~ a predetermined value; and

storing management information<u>,</u> for managing the <u>content</u> ~~contents~~ stored in the recording medium and the data storage<u>,</u> in the recording medium.

21. (Currently Amended) The data processing method of claim 18, further comprising<u>:</u>

storing the management information read from the recording medium in the data processing apparatus,

wherein determining the content determines the content to be played back based on with reference to the management information stored in the data processing apparatus, and determining the link information for to the data processing apparatus.

22. (Currently Amended)   The data processing method of claim 18, wherein the recording medium is identified by has unique identification information.

23. (Currently Amended)   The data processing method of claim 22, wherein the recording medium includes has a copyright protection functionality function.

24. (Currently Amended)   The data processing method of claim 13, wherein the management information manages a content identifier (ID) that ID which is identification information uniquely assigned to each content, and the searching search step searches for the determined content using the content ID.

25. (Currently Amended)   A computer-readable medium on which a data processing program is recorded, the data processing program causing a computer to execute for reading, from a recording medium, [[a]] content which is stored in a specified recording area of the recording medium and playing back [[the]] read content, the recording medium storing, according to a specified format, contents content and management information for of the contents content, the computer-readable medium comprising program causing a computer to execute:

a management reading code segment, recorded on the computer-readable medium, that reads for reading management information from the recording medium,

a determining code segment, recorded on the computer-readable medium, that determines for determining the content to be played back according with reference to the read management information;

a judging code segment, recorded on the computer-readable medium, that judges whether for judging if the determined content exists in the a-specified recording area of in the recording medium;

a search code segment, recorded on the computer-readable medium, that searches for searching out of a specified search range, which is defined according to the specified format as a range for storing contents content to be reproduced, for the content, when if the determined content does not exist in the specified recording area;

a link setting code segment, recorded on the computer-readable medium, that updates for updating link information for relating a the recording area of at which the found content was found to the specified recording area so that the content is accessible using can be accessed with the management information, when the determined content is found; and

a storing code segment, recorded on the computer-readable medium, that stores for storing the management information which is read from the recording medium, using an identification number specific to the recording medium, so that to enable management of the management information can be managed.

26. (Cancelled)